

WHY MAJOR IN MATHEMATICS?

What will I do in the Air Force with a degree in Mathematics?

Many Air Force career fields require specific degrees for entry. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics you qualify for jobs in a wide variety of such specialties.

AREA	CAREER SPECIALTY
SPACE	Space Systems Analyst (AFSC 13Sxx) including: Space Operations Analyst Manned Space Flight Operations Officer Satellite Operations Officer
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	Scientific Analyst (AFSC 61S1A/E)
FLIGHT	Experimental Test Pilot (AFSC 11Exx)
MANAGEMENT	Acquisition Project/Management Officer (AFSC 63Axx)
OPERATIONS RESEARCH	Scientific Analyst (AFSC 61S1A/E)
COMPUTING	Information Systems Analysis Officer (AFSC 33Sxx)
INTELLIGENCE	Intelligence Applications Officer (AFSC 14N1B)

This list is certainly not exhaustive - on top of those AF specialties with no specific degree requirements, Math Majors have also gone to medical school, law school, the meteorology career field and other professional programs.

In which areas may I pursue advanced education with a degree in Mathematics?

There are a great many graduate opportunities available to Math Majors. Your degree will tell the world (and in particular a graduate school entrance committee) that you are a person who has training in precise analytical thinking, problem solving and who is fluent in the language of basic science and engineering. You will be qualified for study in:

Theoretical or Applied Mathematics
Space Operations
Business Administration or Economics
Operations Research
Computer Science
Physics
Most Engineering Disciplines
Law
Medicine

Why should I pursue a degree offering such FLEXIBILITY?

Many of you will wish to pursue a graduate degree at some point in your future. Due to the demands of your military career this pursuit may be delayed for as many as 7-9 years. The only thing certain in the next 7-9 years is **change**. Your interests will change, technology will change and our world will change. The flexibility inherent in the mathematics degree allows you to keep your options open until you're ready to exercise them.

Those of you who go on to operational careers in the Air Force will almost certainly wish to broaden your careers in the future. The Math Major allows you to prepare for your anticipated specialty while still allowing you the flexibility to pursue other interests in the future.

How FLEXIBLE are the course requirements for the Mathematics Major?

Here at USAFA we offer a wide variety of excellent courses and allow you the freedom to choose those which are most appealing. There are nine required courses in the major. In addition, you will choose one of three specialty options:

- Applied Option
- Graduate School Option
- Scientific Analyst Preparation Option

Each option has its own course requirements, based on your personal and career goals. Within each option, you will have the opportunity to develop a coherent course of study tailored to your interests. This provides you the opportunity to have a breadth of experience in Mathematics and yet to study in depth some area you find most interesting.

In the November 25, 1985 *U.S. News and World Report* article "Advice That Can Help You Succeed On Campus" was the following comment:

It is quite appropriate to view college as a broadening experience, a preparation for life. Indeed, many college students do not select their ultimate career path until after they graduate. So take occupational courses if you like, but don't feel compelled to mold your interests to the market.

Our slogan in the Math Major is "*high flexibility, unlimited growth potential.*" When you get the facts you'll agree this an accurate assessment. If, as you think about your future, you feel this slogan should apply to you, come by the Math Department and let's talk about it.